



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

F5 NETWORKS, INC.
C/O DARBY & DARBY P.C.
P.O. BOX 770
CHURCH STREET STATION
NEW YORK NY 10008-0770

COPY MAILED

MAR 3 1 2008

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Application of	:
Szabo, et al.	:
Application No. 10/659,011	: DECISION ON PETITIONS
Filed: 10 September, 2003	: UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.78(a)(3) AND (a)(6)
Attorney Docket No. 8204/1200311US3	:

This is a decision on the petition under 37 C.F.R. §1.78(a)(3) and § 1.78(a)(6), filed on 18 April, 2006, to accept an unintentionally delayed claim under 35 U.S.C. §120 and §119(e) for the benefit of the prior-filed applications set forth in the concurrently filed amendment.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

A petition for acceptance of a claim for late priority under 37 C.F.R. §1.78(a)(3) and §1.78(a)(6) is only applicable to those applications filed on or after November 29, 2000. Further, the petition is appropriate only after the expiration of the period specified in 37 C.F.R. §1.78(a)(2)(ii) and §1.78(a)(5)(ii). In addition, the petition under 37 C.F.R. §1.78(a)(3) and §1.78(a)(6) must be accompanied by:

- (1) the reference required by 35 U.S.C. §120 and §119(e) and 37 C.F.R. §1.78(a)(2)(i) and §1.78(a)(5)(i) of the prior-filed application, unless previously submitted;
- (2) the surcharge set forth in §1.17(t); and

- (3) a statement that the entire delay between the date the claim was due under 37 C.F.R. §1.78(a)(2)(ii) and §1.78(a)(5)(ii) and the date the claim was filed was unintentional. The Director may require additional information where there is a question whether the delay was unintentional.

Additionally, the instant nonprovisional application must be pending at the time of filing of the reference to the prior-filed provisional application as required by 37 C.F.R. 1.78(a)(5)(ii). Further, the nonprovisional application claiming the benefit of the prior-filed provisional application must have been filed within twelve months of the filing date of the prior-filed provisional application.

All of the requirements above having been satisfied, the late claim for benefit of priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and 119(e) is accepted as being unintentionally delayed.

The granting of the petition to accept the delayed benefit claim to the prior-filed applications under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.78(a)(3) and 1.78(a)(6) should not be construed as meaning that this application is entitled to the benefit of the filing date of the prior-filed applications. In order for this application to be entitled to the benefit of the prior-filed applications, all other requirements under 35 U.S.C. §§120 and 1.78(a)(1) and (a)(2) and under 35 U.S.C. §119(e) and 37 C.F.R. 1.78(a)(4) and (a)(5) must be met. Similarly, the fact that the corrected Filing Receipt accompanying this decision on petition includes the prior-filed applications should not be construed as meaning that applicant is entitled to the claim for benefit of priority to the prior-filed applications noted thereon. Accordingly, the examiner will, in due course, consider this benefit claim and determine whether the application is entitled to the benefit of the earlier filing date.

Any questions concerning this matter may be directed to John Gillon at (571) 272-3214. All other inquiries concerning either the examination procedures or status of the application should be directed to the Technology Center.

This application is being forwarded to Technology Center AU 2616 for consideration by the examiner of the claim under 35 U.S.C. § 120 and 119(e) of the prior-filed nonprovisional and provisional applications.


Anthony Knight
Supervisor
Office of Petitions

Attachment: Corrected Filing Receipt



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NUMBER	FILING or 371(c) DATE	GRP ART UNIT	FIL FEE REC'D	ATTY. DOCKET NO	TOT CLAIMS	IND CLAIMS
10/659,011	09/10/2003	2616	2154	8204/1200311US3	56	12

CONFIRMATION NO. 3494

CORRECTED FILING RECEIPT



OC000000028987242

38878

F5 Networks, Inc.
c/o DARBY & DARBY P.C.
P.O. BOX 770
Church Street Station
NEW YORK, NY 10008-0770

Date Mailed: 03/20/2008

Receipt is acknowledged of this non-provisional patent application. The application will be taken up for examination in due course. Applicant will be notified as to the results of the examination. Any correspondence concerning the application must include the following identification information: the U.S. APPLICATION NUMBER, FILING DATE, NAME OF APPLICANT, and TITLE OF INVENTION. Fees transmitted by check or draft are subject to collection. Please verify the accuracy of the data presented on this receipt. **If an error is noted on this Filing Receipt, please write to the Office of Initial Patent Examination's Filing Receipt Corrections. Please provide a copy of this Filing Receipt with the changes noted thereon. If you received a "Notice to File Missing Parts" for this application, please submit any corrections to this Filing Receipt with your reply to the Notice. When the USPTO processes the reply to the Notice, the USPTO will generate another Filing Receipt incorporating the requested corrections**

Applicant(s)

Paul I. Szabo, Seattle, WA;
Greg W. Davis, Spokane, WA;
David D. Schmitt, Seattle, WA;
Alan B. Mimms, Spokane, WA;
Richard Roderick Masters, Seattle, WA;

Assignment For Published Patent Application

F5 Networks, Inc., Seattle, WA

Power of Attorney: The patent practitioners associated with Customer Number 38878

Domestic Priority data as claimed by applicant

This application is a CIP of 10/119,433 04/09/2002 PAT 7,102,996
which claims benefit of 60/293,466 05/24/2001

Foreign Applications

EUROPEAN PATENT OFFICE (EPO) 97203900.2 12/12/1997
EUROPEAN PATENT OFFICE (EPO) 98201772.5 05/28/1998
EUROPEAN PATENT OFFICE (EPO) 98203010.8 09/09/1998

If Required, Foreign Filing License Granted: 12/03/2003

The country code and number of your priority application, to be used for filing abroad under the Paris Convention, is **US 10/659,011**

Projected Publication Date: Request for Non-Publication Acknowledged

Non-Publication Request: Yes

*****WARNING*****

Applicant has requested non-publication, certifying that the invention disclosed in this application has not been and will not be the subject of an application filed in another country, or under a multilateral agreement, that requires publication at eighteen months after filing; **and has also claimed** the benefit of an application filed in another country or under a multilateral agreement. Because the non-publication request and corresponding certification appears to be inconsistent with the priority claim, applicant is reminded that he/she has an obligation to promptly notify the Office and **rescind the non-publication request** if the invention disclosed in this application is the subject of an application filed in another country, or under a multilateral agreement, that requires eighteen-month publication.

*****WARNING*****

Early Publication Request: No

Title

Method and system for scaling network traffic managers using connection keys

Preliminary Class

370

PROTECTING YOUR INVENTION OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES

Since the rights granted by a U.S. patent extend only throughout the territory of the United States and have no effect in a foreign country, an inventor who wishes patent protection in another country must apply for a patent in a specific country or in regional patent offices. Applicants may wish to consider the filing of an international application under the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT). An international (PCT) application generally has the same effect as a regular national patent application in each PCT-member country. The PCT process **simplifies** the filing of patent applications on the same invention in member countries, but **does not result** in a grant of "an international patent" and does not eliminate the need of applicants to file additional documents and fees in countries where patent protection is desired.

Almost every country has its own patent law, and a person desiring a patent in a particular country must make an application for patent in that country in accordance with its particular laws. Since the laws of many countries differ in various respects from the patent law of the United States, applicants are advised to seek guidance from specific foreign countries to ensure that patent rights are not lost prematurely.

Applicants also are advised that in the case of inventions made in the United States, the Director of the USPTO must issue a license before applicants can apply for a patent in a foreign country. The filing of a U.S. patent application serves as a request for a foreign filing license. The application's filing receipt contains further information and guidance as to the status of applicant's license for foreign filing.

Applicants may wish to consult the USPTO booklet, "General Information Concerning Patents" (specifically, the section entitled "Treaties and Foreign Patents") for more information on timeframes and deadlines for filing foreign patent applications. The guide is available either by contacting the USPTO Contact Center at 800-786-9199, or it can be viewed on the USPTO website at <http://www.uspto.gov/web/offices/pac/doc/general/index.html>.

For information on preventing theft of your intellectual property (patents, trademarks and copyrights), you may wish to consult the U.S. Government website, <http://www.stopfakes.gov>. Part of a Department of Commerce initiative, this website includes self-help "toolkits" giving innovators guidance on how to protect intellectual property in specific countries such as China, Korea and Mexico. For questions regarding patent enforcement issues, applicants may call the U.S. Government hotline at 1-866-999-HALT (1-866-999-4158).

LICENSE FOR FOREIGN FILING UNDER
Title 35, United States Code, Section 184
Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, 5.11 & 5.15

GRANTED

The applicant has been granted a license under 35 U.S.C. 184, if the phrase "IF REQUIRED, FOREIGN FILING LICENSE GRANTED" followed by a date appears on this form. Such licenses are issued in all applications where the conditions for issuance of a license have been met, regardless of whether or not a license may be required as set forth in 37 CFR 5.15. The scope and limitations of this license are set forth in 37 CFR 5.15(a) unless an earlier license has been issued under 37 CFR 5.15(b). The license is subject to revocation upon written notification. The date indicated is the effective date of the license, unless an earlier license of similar scope has been granted under 37 CFR 5.13 or 5.14.

This license is to be retained by the licensee and may be used at any time on or after the effective date thereof unless it is revoked. This license is automatically transferred to any related applications(s) filed under 37 CFR 1.53(d). This license is not retroactive.

The grant of a license does not in any way lessen the responsibility of a licensee for the security of the subject matter as imposed by any Government contract or the provisions of existing laws relating to espionage and the national security or the export of technical data. Licensees should apprise themselves of current regulations especially with respect to certain countries, of other agencies, particularly the Office of Defense Trade Controls, Department of State (with respect to Arms, Munitions and Implements of War (22 CFR 121-128)); the Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce (15 CFR parts 730-774); the Office of Foreign Assets Control, Department of Treasury (31 CFR Parts 500+) and the Department of Energy.

NOT GRANTED

No license under 35 U.S.C. 184 has been granted at this time, if the phrase "IF REQUIRED, FOREIGN FILING LICENSE GRANTED" DOES NOT appear on this form. Applicant may still petition for a license under 37 CFR 5.12, if a license is desired before the expiration of 6 months from the filing date of the application. If 6 months has lapsed from the filing date of this application and the licensee has not received any indication of a secrecy order under 35 U.S.C. 181, the licensee may foreign file the application pursuant to 37 CFR 5.15(b).